

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 2, 2003 has been carefully considered. First, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's decision to re-open prosecution upon review of the appeal brief filed on June 11, 2003. In addition, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's determination of allowable subject matter in claims 7-8, 16-19, 30, 39, 45, and 48-50.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of cancelled dependent claim 8. Hence, independent claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 9-14, 20-29, 31-38, 41-44, 46-47, 51-53, and 74, all depending therefrom, are also allowable. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of cancelled dependent claim 7. Hence, claim 4 and claims 5 and 6, depending therefrom, are allowable. Claims 16-19 were rewritten, as suggested by the Examiner, into independent form, by including all the limitations of the base claim and any interceding claims. Hence, claims 16-19 are all allowable. Claims 30 and 39 were also rewritten into independent form, as suggested by the examiner by incorporating all the limitations of base claims 1 and 2, and are allowable as well. Claim 45 was rewritten into independent form by incorporating the formulation limitation of the base claim, as suggested by the Examiner, and is allowable. Claims 48-50 depend from independent claim 45 and are therefore allowable as well. There are now 9 independent and 39 dependent claims for a total of 48 claims currently pending in the application.

It is believed that this amendment does not include new matter and that entry is therefore in order and should therefore be granted. The changes presented with this amendment are believed sufficient to place all the claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 9-10, 12-14, 20, 24, 26, 29, 35, 37-38, 42-44, 47 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,767,563 to de Buzzaccarini ("Buzzaccarini"). The allowable subject matter of claim 8 was incorporated into independent claim 1, rendering claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 9-10, 12-14, 20, 24, 26, 29, 35,

37-38, 42-44, 47 and 51, all depending therefrom, allowable as well. Hence this rejection has been overcome and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 9-10, 14, 29, 31-32, 36 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,306,444 to Kitamura et al. ("Kitamura"). As stated prior, the allowable subject matter of claim 8 was incorporated into independent claim 1 rendering it and all claims depending therefrom allowable. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3, 9-10, 14, 29, 31-32, 36 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) on the basis of Kitamura has been overcome and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9-10 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,431,840 to Soldanski et al. ("Soldanski"). The allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 8 was incorporated into independent claim 1, and the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 7 was incorporated into claim 4, which was then rewritten into independent form. Hence, independent claims 1 and 4 and all claims depending therefrom are allowable as well. The rejection of claims 1-5, 9-10 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 9-10 and 51-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,482,644 to Nguyen et al. ("Nguyen"). As stated prior, independent claim 1 was amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 8. Hence, claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable. The rejection of claims 1-3, 9-10 and 51-52 under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome and reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103

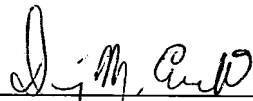
Claims 6, 11, 21-23, 25, 27-28, 41 and 74 were rejected additionally under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buzzaccarini. Similarly to the previous §102 traversals, Applicants point out that independent claim 1 has been rendered allowable by incorporation of the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 8. Since claims 11, 21-23, 25, 27-28, 41 and 74 all depend from claim 1, they are allowable as well. In addition, claim 4 was amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 7, and was re-written into independent form by incorporating the limitations of the base claim. Hence, claim 6,

which depends therefrom, is rendered allowable as well and the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections have been obviated. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 11 was rejected additionally under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soldanski. However, claim 11 depends from independent claim 1, which the Examiner has admitted, with the incorporation of allowable subject matter from cancelled claim 8, is novel and patentably distinct. Hence, instant claim 11, depending from claim 1, is patentably distinct in view of Soldanski and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-14, 20-29, 31, 32, 35-38, 41-44, 46, 47, 51-53 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 set forth in the Official Action mailed September 2, 2003 and places the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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